



GREENWOOD COMMON COUNCIL APRIL 4, 2005 MINUTES

Mayor Charles Henderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance in unison, after which Pastor Joyce Castleman of the Greenwood Baptist Church led in prayer.

PRESENT:	Council members Ron Bates, Bill Bless, Ron Deer, John Gibson, Keith Hardin, Jessie Reed; Mayor Henderson; Clerk-Treasurer Jeannine Myers, and City Attorney Shawna Koons-Davis. Councilman Bruce Armstrong was not in attendance.
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Mr. Bates moved to approve the minutes of the regular session of March 21st, with second by Ms. Reed.
Vote: Ayes.

Mayor Henderson recognized from the audience a group of students. Shelby Fink explained they were with the Principal Advisory Group from Greenwood Middle School. Council members also introduced themselves and welcomed the group.

Ms. Koons-Davis had distributed her litigation report. There were no questions from the Council.

Mr. Bates reported that the last Plan Commission meeting was a training session on problems with diversity, density and development, noting that all Council members were in attendance. There were papers available to the Council that were not picked up that night. The next meeting in the land use series, on smart growth, will be held at Franklin College on April 12th.

Mr. Deer wanted to poll the Council to see how many would be interested in joint sessions with the tax abatement review committee. He suggested after the next Council meeting or another night as a special meeting. Mr. Deer thought it would take no more than an hour. It was the consensus to have a joint session on April 18th at 7:30 or immediately after the Council meeting. On April 27th at noon there is a meeting with a gentleman who does a survey on houses.

Mayor Henderson told the Council he had received an e-mail from the White House that indicated President Bush has issued a proclamation honoring Pope John Paul II and has ordered all flags in the United States lowered to half staff until the Pope is interred. The City has honored that request.

RESOLUTION No. 05-04 – A Resolution of the Greenwood Common Council to Amend Greenwood Common Council Resolution Nos. 01-17, “A Resolution Confirming Resolution 01-11 The Declaration of a Certain Area Within the City of Greenwood An Economic Revitalization Area and Qualifying Certain Property and Improvements for Tax Abatement (Precision Investments, LLC)” and 01-18, “A Resolution Confirming Resolution 01-12 The Declaration and Approval of Certain Manufacturing Equipment For Property Tax Abatement (Precision Products, Inc.)”, to Correct Typographical Errors. Mr. Bless moved to pass Resolution No. 05-04 through first reading. Second by Mr. Bates. Vote: Ayes. **PASSED FIRST READING.**

RESOLUTION No. 05-05 – A Resolution Regarding the Establishment of a Local Option Highway Users Tax for Johnson County, Indiana. Mr. Gibson moved to pass Resolution No. 05-05 on first reading. Second by Mr. Deer. Johnson County Commissioners McConnelly and Ripley were in the audience and spoke in favor of the tax, stressing that over the last few years the infrastructure has deteriorated noticeably. A gas tax as a better alternative to the wheel tax was also mentioned. More money to the counties and cities to fix the roads will not be coming out of the State legislature, said the Commissioner, but the Commissioners do not feel they can wait any longer. They have about \$600,000 to \$700,000 to “put on the table”. After more discussion, the Mayor explained that the “wheel tax” of about \$25 extra when license plates were issued would bring in about \$2 million, of which the County would get about \$1

million. Greenwood's portion would be a little over .5 million, added the Mayor, to fix our streets. The Mayor stated that the resolution would not be binding, but would state that this Council supports this resolution. Mr. Gibson mentioned that some owners of antique cars would prefer to pay a reduced amount, as they drive their vehicles only a few times a year, although they are not against the wheel tax. He also mentioned that many users are from outside this County. The County is also considering issue a bond for roughly half the cost of fixing the roads. Any of the municipalities can participate in the bond and not have to do a separate bond. This could be available in about 90 days, said the Commissioner, meaning funding for paving would be available in 2005. Mr. Hardin agreed that the City's streets need fixing, although they are not in the same condition as some of the County roads, but noted that once a tax is enacted, it "never goes away". He told the Commissioners that the City previously rejected a bond for fixing the streets and noted that he does not believe a bond is the proper means of funding road repairs. In response to Mr. Hardin, the Commissioners said the bond would be as short as 3 to 4 years or as long as 10 years. The study of the financial impact of the bonding is in process, the Commissioners said. They have been given different answers on the County's ability to bond to pay for roads, but the County should receive a greater share of CAGIT if they do bond. The Commissioners do not know yet the financial impact on property tax. Mayor Henderson added that the only reason he knew that the County might not be able to bond is that they have reached their 2% indebtedness. He stated that the wheel tax cannot be used for anything other than roads, not even personnel or equipment.

One of the students asked the average cost of repairing roads, whereupon the Commissioner stated that the cost was \$40,000 to \$50,000 per mile for County roads. If it is in a subdivision, where curbs and sidewalks are being installed, and replacing the surface, the cost can be \$700,000 per mile. Mayor Henderson said that the cost of major reconstruction in Valle Vista is about \$3.2 million and in Northern Park, around \$2.5 million. An overlay is about \$50,000 to \$60,000 per mile. When John Price made a presentation a couple of years ago he had figures on the number and types of vehicles; the Commissioners will get updated figures to the Clerk-Treasurer. They mentioned that 96% of the vehicles are passenger cars and most large trucks get license plates out of state. Vote: Ayes – Bless, Deer, Gibson, Hardin; Nays – Reed, Bates. **PASSED FIRST READING.**

ORDINANCE No. 04-58 – An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory Within the Area of Extended Jurisdiction of the City of Greenwood, Indiana, Placing the Same Within the Corporate Boundaries Thereof and Making the Same a Part of the City of Greenwood and Redefining the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Greenwood, Indiana, Approximately 85.4 Acres Located Approximately ¼ Mile East of Honey Creek Road on the North Side of Cutsinger Road and East of Alden Place Subdivision (commonly known as the Bright Property). Mr. Hardin moved to pass Ordinance No. 04-58 through second reading. Second by Mr. Deer. Vote: Ayes. **PASSED SECOND READING.**

RESOLUTION No. 05-03 – A Resolution Authorizing a Temporary Loan For the Park Fund (\$215,000) From the Rainy Day Fund. Executive Director Evan Springer recounted that years ago the Parks Department would have to ask for a loan year after year, and then in time the cash balance grew to a comfortable amount. In 2003, to fund the City budget, Mr. Springer said that funds were taken from the General Fund – about \$400,000 out of his department's cash funds. The money will be used throughout the budget of the Parks Department. Ms. Koons-Davis indicated that about \$219,000 is in the Rainy Day Fund, and Mr. Springer said his department would pay back the loan in December. Mr. Springer added that the Cum Cap Fund and other areas that loaned to the Parks Department in previous years are not available now. Mayor Henderson said that the project of tearing down the house next door for a parking lot is on hold right now. **RESOLUTION No. 05-03 INTRODUCED.**

Under miscellaneous business, Mr. Bates discussed a letter he received from the Board of Aviation Commissioners. They are concerned about budget items being cut, he said. Mr. Bates thought from the letter that they are self-funding, and Mayor Henderson said that the City has matched money in the past but has not put any money into their operating fund for several years. How the money is spent is approved by the Council. According to the letter, the Commissioners were not able to pay dues to the Aviation Association of Indiana or to the American Association of Airport Executives or the Johnson County ditch tax – all totaling \$1,000. A representative at the next meeting could request approval on this spending.

Mr. Bates mentioned a call from a constituent in Timbers Edge concerning Phase II of Fry Road. Mayor Henderson discussed the TIF in the area that the accounting firm for the Redevelopment Commission believes was re-assessed in error. This is being appealed at the State level.

Mr. Hardin said he would like Bill Jackson or another representative from the Board of Aviation Commissioners to be present at the next meeting and also requested a report from the Clerk-Treasurer on the spending for this year.

Mr. Deer thanked the City Attorney for getting a copy of the Morgan County Subdivision Control Ordinance that included requirements for warning signs and sirens. Ms. Koons-Davis commented that it appears to be a development requirement and we would want Plan Commission input. Mr. Deer requested that the Council representative to the Plan Commission, the City Attorney, the Director of Planning, Zoning, Research & Development, Police Chief Pitcher, and Fire Chief Dhondt review that ordinance.

Mr. Deer reported an e-mail voicing concerns about speeding on Declaration Drive. He indicated that he saw only one speed limit sign (30 mph) on the entire two-mile road going westbound and no sign eastbound. No sign exists between the turn in at Declaration Drive and the apartments behind Kroger. Mr. Deer will give the information to Chief Pitcher for a speed study.

Ms. Myers noted that she had put informational items about the County hiring a consultant in the Council packets. She asked also for any input on the website. There was information from the Parks Department on their property taxes. The additional appropriation of \$1 million was approved by the Department of Local Government Finance, and the Clerk-Treasurer included a copy of the investment log from February.

The City Attorney discussed the Precision Investments, LLC request for tax abatement. Others in the packet will be discussed at the next meeting, when the representative can attend. Mr. Bates moved to find Precision Investments in substantial compliance. Second by Mr. Gibson, who asked that the Clerk-Treasurer's office date stamp the economic development package when it is received. Counsel clarified that Precision Products occupies the building and does the work; Precision Investments is a holding company that owns the real estate but does actively operate a business. There was discussion about the number of employees, which is fewer than anticipated, and the salaries, which are higher than anticipated. Vote: Ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Deer moved to continue the other abatements that were mentioned earlier. Second by Mr. Bates. Vote: Ayes.

Mayor Henderson reported receiving an e-mail from Chris Kinnett, Director of Johnson County Economic Development, thanking everyone for participating in trying to bring Becton, Dickinson & Company to Greenwood. The company has chosen to go to Plainfield. Originally the Mayor thought their board was going to meet tonight to make that decision. He received a call asking for another million dollars on the table, but the Mayor said he didn't know where we would get it. The company said that the tax rate was too high -- \$1.5 in property taxes.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.